

Amendments to Claims

Please amend the claims as follows.

1. (Currently Amended) A process for forming a multiple component meltblown fiber ~~fibers~~ comprising extruding a first melt-processable polymer through a first extrusion ~~orifice~~ orifices, simultaneously extruding a second melt-processable polymer through a second extrusion ~~orifice~~ orifices, fusing said first and second melt-processable polymers into an extruded composite filament filaments after extrusion, ~~and~~ pneumatically attenuating and breaking said extruded composite ~~filament~~ filaments with at least one jet of high velocity gas so as to form said multiple component meltblown ~~fiber~~ fibers, and collecting said fibers.

2. (Currently Amended) The process of claim 1 wherein the composite filament ~~is~~ filaments are attenuated with a plurality of high velocity gas jets.

3. (Cancelled).

4. (Original) The process according to claim 1, wherein said first and second melt-processable polymers have different viscosities as a function of temperature.

5. (Original) The process according to claim 1, wherein said first and second melt-processable polymers have different melting and/or softening points.

6. (Original) The process according to claim 1, wherein said first and second melt-processable polymers are chemically different polymers.

7. (Original) The process according to claim 6, wherein said first melt-processable polymer is a polyester and the second melt-processable polymer is polyethylene.

8. (Original) The process according to claim 7 wherein said polyester is poly(ethylene terephthalate).

9. (Currently Amended) A nonwoven fabric produced by collecting the meltblown fibers according to any of claims 1, 7 or 8 ~~claim 4~~ on a collecting surface comprising a spunbond nonwoven fabric.

10. (Cancelled).

11. (Currently Amended) An extrusion die for meltblowing molten polymers comprising a row of die orifices each comprising at least two separate polymer supply ports entering from an entrance portion of the die, each of said polymer supply ports communicating with separate rows of extrusion capillaries having exit openings at an exit portion of the die, gas supply ports entering from the entrance portion of the die and arranged laterally to said polymer supply ports, said gas supply ports communicating with gas jets extending through the die and arranged laterally to the exit openings of said extrusion capillaries, wherein said rows of extrusion capillary exit openings and said gas jets communicate with a blowing orifice in the exit portion of the die.

12. (Cancelled).

13. (Currently Amended) The extrusion die according to ~~either of claims 11 or 12~~ claim 11, wherein said extrusion capillaries are angled toward a common longitudinal axis.

14. (Currently Amended) The extrusion die according to ~~either of claims 11 or 12~~ claim 11, wherein said extrusion die comprises at least two gas jets and wherein said extrusion capillaries and said gas jets are angled toward a common longitudinal axis.

15. (Currently Amended) The extrusion die according to ~~either of claims 11 or 12~~ claim 11, wherein said extrusion die comprises at least two gas jets and wherein said extrusion capillaries are parallel to each other and said gas jets are angled toward a common longitudinal axis.